IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS HOUSTON DIVISION

SALVADOR SEGOVIA, JR.,)
Plaintiff,))) CIVIL ACTION
VS.) CIVIL ACTION
) Case No. 4:24-CV-03622
BIEU NGUYEN and)
ANAYA DEEP INC.,)
)
Defendants.)

COMPLAINT

COMES NOW, SALVADOR SEGOVIA, JR, by and through the undersigned counsel, and files this, his Complaint against Defendants, BIEU NGUYEN and ANAYA DEEP INC., pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.* ("ADA") and the ADA's Accessibility Guidelines, 28 C.F.R. Part 36 ("ADAAG"). In support thereof, Plaintiff respectfully shows this Court as follows:

JURISDICTION

1. This Court has original jurisdiction over the action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343 for Plaintiff's claims pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.*, based upon Defendants' failure to remove physical barriers to access and violations of Title III of the ADA.

PARTIES

- 2. Plaintiff, SALVADOR SEGOVIA, JR. (hereinafter "Plaintiff") is, and has been at all times relevant to the instant matter, a natural person residing in Houston, Texas (Harris County).
 - 3. Plaintiff is disabled as defined by the ADA.

- 4. Plaintiff is required to traverse in a wheelchair and is substantially limited in performing one or more major life activities, including but not limited to: walking and standing.
 - 5. Plaintiff uses a wheelchair for mobility purposes.
- 6. In addition to being a customer of the public accommodation on the Property, Plaintiff is also an independent advocate for the rights of similarly situated disabled persons and is a "tester" for the purpose of enforcing Plaintiff's civil rights, monitoring, determining and ensuring whether places of public accommodation are in compliance with the ADA. Her motivation to return to a location, in part, stems from a desire to utilize ADA litigation to make Plaintiff's community more accessible for Plaintiff and others; and pledges to do whatever is necessary to demonstrate the plausibility of Plaintiff returning to the Property once the barriers to access identified in this Complaint are removed in order to strengthen the already existing standing to confer jurisdiction upon this Court so an injunction can be issued correcting the numerous ADA violations on this property. ("Advocacy Purposes").
- 7. Defendant, BIEU NGUYEN (hereinafter "BIEU NGUYEN"), is an individual who transacts business in the State of Texas and within this judicial district.
- 8. Defendant, BIEU NGUYEN, may be properly served with process for service, to wit: 11735 Briar Canyon Court, Tomball, TX 77377-8568.
- 9. Defendant, ANAYA DEEP INC. (hereinafter "and ANAYA DEEP INC."), is a Texas company that transacts business in the State of Texas and within this judicial district.
- 10. Defendant, ANAYA DEEP INC., may be properly served with process for service via its Registered Agent, to wit: c/o Zulfikarali V. Momin, Registered Agent, 3701 Aldine Mail Route Road, Houston, TX 77039.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 11. On or about May 23, 2024, Plaintiff was a customer at "Quick Shop" a business located at 3701 Aldine Mail Route Road, Houston, TX 77039 referenced herein as "Quick Shop". Attached is a receipt documenting Plaintiff's purchase. *See* Exhibit 1. Also attached is a photograph documenting Plaintiff's visit to the Property. *See* Exhibit 2.
 - 12. Plaintiff lives less than 2 miles from the Property.
- 13. Given the fact that Plaintiff lives less than 2 miles from the Property, and the property is on a main road by Plaintiff's residence, Plaintiff is routinely driving by the Property on at least a monthly, if not weekly basis.
- 14. Defendant, BIEU NGUYEN, is the owner or co-owner of the real property and improvements that Quick Shop is situated upon and that is the subject of this action, referenced herein as the "Property."
- 15. Defendant, ANAYA DEEP INC., is the lessee or sublessee of the real property and improvements that Quick Shop is situated upon and is the subject of this action
- 16. Plaintiff's access to the business(es) located 3701 Aldine Mail Route Road, Houston, TX 77039, Harris County Property Appraiser's identification number: 1042000000673 ("the Property"), and/or full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, foods, drinks, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations offered therein were denied and/or limited because of his disabilities, and he will be denied and/or limited in the future unless and until Defendants, BIEU NGUYEN and ANAYA DEEP INC., are compelled to remove the physical barriers to access and correct the ADA violations that exist at the Property, including those set forth in this Complaint.

- 17. Defendant, BIEU NGUYEN, as owner of the Property is responsible for complying with the ADA for both the exterior portions and interior portions of the Property. Even if there is an agreement between Defendant, BIEU NGUYEN and the tenant allocating responsibilities for ADA compliance within the unit the tenant operates, that lease is only between the property owner and the tenant and does not abrogate the Defendant's independent requirement to comply with the ADA for the entire Property it owns, including the interior portions of the Property which are public accommodations. *See* 28 CFR § 36.201(b).
- 18. Plaintiff has visited the Property at least once before as a customer and advocate for the disabled. Plaintiff intends to revisit the Property within six months after the barriers to access detailed in this Complaint are removed and the Property is accessible again. The purpose of the revisit is to be a return customer, to determine if and when the Property is made accessible and for Advocacy Purposes.
- 19. Plaintiff intends on revisiting the Property to purchase goods and/or services as a return customer living in the near vicinity as well as for Advocacy Purposes but does not intend to re-expose himself to the ongoing barriers to access and engage in a futile gesture of visiting the public accommodation known to Plaintiff to have numerous and continuing barriers to access.
- 20. Plaintiff travelled to the Property as a customer and as an independent advocate for the disabled, personally encountered many barriers to access the Property that are detailed in this Complaint, engaged many barriers, suffered legal harm and legal injury, and will continue to suffer such harm and injury if all the illegal barriers to access present at the Property identified in this Complaint are not removed.

- 21. Although Plaintiff did not personally encounter each and every barrier to access identified in Plaintiff's Complaint, Plaintiff became aware of all identified barriers prior to filing the Complaint and because Plaintiff intends on revisiting the Property as a customer and advocate for the disabled within six months or sooner after the barriers to access are removed, it is likely that despite not actually encountering a particular barrier to access on one visit, Plaintiff may encounter a different barrier to access identified in the complaint in a subsequent visit as, for example, one accessible parking space may not be available and he would need to use an alternative accessible parking space in the future on his subsequent visit. As such, all barriers to access identified in the Complaint must be removed in order to ensure Plaintiff will not be exposed to barriers to access and legally protected injury.
- 22. Plaintiff's inability to fully access the Property and the stores within in a safe manner and in a manner which inhibits the free and equal enjoyment of the goods and services offered at the Property, both now and into the foreseeable future, constitutes an injury in fact as recognized by Congress and is historically viewed by Federal Courts as an inquiry in fact.

COUNT I VIOLATIONS OF THE ADA AND ADAAG

- 23. On July 26, 1990, Congress enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act 42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq*.
 - 24. Congress found, among other things, that:
 - (i) some 43,000,000 Americans have one or more physical or mental disabilities, and this number is increasing as the population as a whole is growing older;
 - (ii) historically, society has tended to isolate and segregate individuals with disabilities, and, despite some improvements, such forms of discrimination against individuals with disabilities continue to be a serious and pervasive social problem;

- (iii) discrimination against individuals with disabilities persists in such critical areas as employment, housing public accommodations, education, transportation, communication, recreation, institutionalization, health services, voting, and access to public services;
- (iv) individuals with disabilities continually encounter various forms of discrimination, including outright intentional exclusion, the discriminatory effects of architectural, transportation, and communication barriers, overprotective rules and policies, failure to make modifications to existing facilities and practices, exclusionary qualification standards and criteria, segregation, and relegation to lesser service, programs, activities, benefits, jobs, or other opportunities; and
- (v) the continuing existence of unfair and unnecessary discrimination and prejudice denies people with disabilities the opportunity to compete on an equal basis and to pursue those opportunities for which our free society is justifiably famous and costs the United States billions of dollars in unnecessary expenses resulting from dependency and non-productivity.

42 U.S.C. § 12101(a)(1) - (3), (5) and (9).

- 25. Congress explicitly stated that the purpose of the ADA was to:
- (i) provide a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities;
- (ii) provide a clear, strong, consistent, enforceable standards addressing discrimination against individuals with disabilities; and

* * * * *

(iv) invoke the sweep of congressional authority, including the power to enforce the fourteenth amendment and to regulate commerce, in order to address the major areas of discrimination faced day-to-day by people with disabilities.

42 U.S.C. § 12101(b)(1)(2) and (4).

- 26. The congressional legislation provided places of public accommodation one and a half years from the enactment of the ADA to implement its requirements.
- 27. The effective date of Title III of the ADA was January 26, 1992 (or January 26, 1993 if a defendant has 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). 42 U.S.C.

§ 12181; 28 C.F.R. § 36.508(a).

- 28. The Property is a public accommodation and service establishment.
- 29. Pursuant to the mandates of 42 U.S.C. § 12134(a), on July 26, 1991, the Department of Justice and Office of Attorney General promulgated federal regulations to implement the requirements of the ADA. 28 C.F.R. Part 36.
- 30. Public accommodations were required to conform to these regulations by January 26, 1992 (or by January 26, 1993 if a defendant has 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.*; 28 C.F.R. § 36.508(a).
 - 31. The Property must be, but is not, in compliance with the ADA and ADAAG.
- 32. Plaintiff has attempted to, and has to the extent possible, accessed the Property in his capacity as a customer at the Property as well as an independent advocate for the disabled, but could not fully do so because of his disabilities resulting from the physical barriers to access, dangerous conditions and ADA violations that exist at the Property that preclude and/or limit his access to the Property and/or the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations offered therein, including those barriers, conditions and ADA violations more specifically set forth in this Complaint.
- 33. Plaintiff intends to visit the Property again in the very near future as a customer and as an independent advocate for the disabled, in order to utilize all of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations commonly offered at the Property, but will be unable to fully do so because of his disability and the physical barriers to access, dangerous conditions and ADA violations that exist at the Property that preclude and/or limit his access to the Property and/or the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations offered therein, including those barriers, conditions and ADA violations more

specifically set forth in this Complaint.

- 34. Defendants, BIEU NGUYEN and ANAYA DEEP INC., have discriminated against Plaintiff (and others with disabilities) by denying his access to, and full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations of the Property, as prohibited by, and by failing to remove architectural barriers as required by, 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv).
- 35. Defendants, BIEU NGUYEN and ANAYA DEEP INC., will continue to discriminate against Plaintiff and others with disabilities unless and until Defendants, BIEU NGUYEN and ANAYA DEEP INC., are compelled to remove all physical barriers that exist at the Property, including those specifically set forth herein, and make the Property accessible to and usable by Plaintiff and other persons with disabilities.
- 36. A specific list of unlawful physical barriers, dangerous conditions and ADA violations which Plaintiff experienced and/or observed, or was made aware of prior to the filing of this Complaint, that precluded and/or limited Plaintiff's access to the Property and the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and accommodations of the Property include, but are not limited to:

ACCESSIBLE ELEMENTS:

i. At Unit 3715, due to an approximate 3-inch vertical rise at the door, the total vertical rise of accessible route leading from public sidewalk is greater than ½ (one-half) inch and thus, the accessible route is not ramped in compliance with Section 405 or 406, this is a violation of Section 303.4 of the 2010 ADAAG standards. This barrier to access would make it dangerous and difficult for Plaintiff to access the units of the Property because the vertical

- rise in the form of stairs would make it almost impossible for Plaintiff to safely access the interior of the public accommodation.
- ii. At Unit 3715, due to an approximate 3-inch vertical rise at the door, the accessible route leading into this public accommodation contains at least one vertical rise in excess of ¼ inch in violation of Section 303.2 of the 2010 ADAAG Standards. This barrier to access would make it difficult and dangerous for Plaintiff to attempt to utilize the accessible route as it increases the likelihood of the wheelchair tipping.
- iii. At Unit 3715, due to an approximate 3-inch vertical rise at the door, the maneuvering clearance of the accessible entrance is not level in violation of Section 404.2.4 of the 2010 ADAAG standards. This barrier to access would make it difficult for Plaintiff to access this unit of the Property since it is often necessary for individuals in wheelchairs to need to use their hands to both wheel through the doorway and keep the door open with another hand. When the maneuvering clearance is not level, this ordinarily difficult process is made even more difficult by the presence of an excessive vertical rise.
- iv. There is not at least one accessible entrance to each tenant space in the building that complies with Section 404 of the 2010 ADAAG standards which is a violation of Section 206.4.5 of the 2010 ADAAG Standards.
- v. As not all entrances comply with Section 404 of the 2010 ADAAG Standards, entrances that do comply with Section 404 of the 2010 ADAAG Standards are required to have signage identified by the International Symbol of Accessibility indicating an accessible entrance, however, no such signage

exists on the Property in violation of Section 216.6 of the 2010 ADAAG Standards. Moreover, there is a lack of directional signage indicating the location of the nearest accessible entrance. This barrier to access would make it difficult for Plaintiff to locate an accessible entrance on the Property.

- vi. In front of Unit 3705, the access aisle to the accessible parking space is not level due to the presence of an accessible ramp in the access aisle in violation of Section 502.4 of the 2010 ADAAG standards. This barrier to access would make it dangerous and difficult for Plaintiff to exit and enter their vehicle while parked at the Property as the lift from the van may rest upon the ramp and create an unlevel surface.
- vii. In front of Unit 3705, the accessible curb ramp is improperly protruding into the access aisle of the accessible parking space in violation of Section 406.5 of the 2010 ADAAG Standards. This barrier to access would make it dangerous and difficult for Plaintiff to exit and enter their vehicle while parked at the Property as the lift from the van may rest upon the ramp and create an unlevel surface.
- viii. In front of Unit 3705, the accessible parking space is not level due to the presence of an accessible ramp in the accessible parking space in violation of Section 502.4 of the 2010 ADAAG standards. This barrier to access would make it dangerous and difficult for Plaintiff to exit and enter their vehicle while parked at the Property as the van may rest upon the ramp and create an unlevel surface for Plaintiff to exit and enter their vehicle. Moreover, when

- the vehicle parks in this space, the vehicle blocks the accessible route to the ramp.
- ix. In front of Unit 3705, the accessible curb ramp is improperly protruding into the accessible parking space in violation of Section 406.5 of the 2010 ADAAG Standards. This barrier to access would make it difficult and dangerous for Plaintiff to exit/enter their vehicle.
- x. In front of Unit 3705, the accessible parking space is missing an identification sign in violation of Section 502.6 of the 2010 ADAAG standards. This barrier to access would make it difficult for Plaintiff to locate an accessible parking space.
- xi. In front of Unit 3705, there is a vertical rise at the base of the accessible ramp that is in excess of a ¼ of an inch, in violation of Sections 303.2 and 405.4 of the 2010 ADAAG standards. This barrier to access would make it dangerous and difficult for Plaintiff to access public features of the Property when using this accessible ramp as vertical rises on ramps are particularly dangerous as the surface of the ramp is already at a significant slope which increases the likelihood of the wheelchair to tip over due to the vertical rise.
- xii. In front of Unit 3705, the accessible ramp side flares have a slope in excess of 1:10 in violation of Section 406.3 of the 2010 ADAAG standards. This barrier to access would make it dangerous and difficult for Plaintiff to access the units of the Property because steep slopes on ramp side flares could cause the wheelchair to tip over and injure Plaintiff.

- xiii. In front of Quick Shop, the accessible parking space has a slope in excess of 1:48 in violation of Section 502.4 of the 2010 ADAAG standards and is not level. This barrier to access would make it dangerous and difficult for Plaintiff to exit and enter their vehicle while parked at the Property as Plaintiff's wheelchair may roll down the slope while entering or exiting the vehicle.
- xiv. In front of Quick Shop, the access aisle to the accessible parking space is not level due to the presence of an accessible ramp in the access aisle in violation of Section 502.4 of the 2010 ADAAG standards. This barrier to access would make it dangerous and difficult for Plaintiff to exit and enter their vehicle while parked at the Property as the lift from the van may rest upon the ramp and create an unlevel surface.
- xv. In front of Quick Shop, the accessible curb ramp is improperly protruding into the access aisle of the accessible parking space in violation of Section 406.5 of the 2010 ADAAG Standards. This barrier to access would make it dangerous and difficult for Plaintiff to exit and enter their vehicle while parked at the Property as the lift from the van may rest upon the ramp and create an unlevel surface.
- xvi. In front of Quick Shop, the accessible ramp servicing the Property has a cross-slope steeper than 1:48 in violation of Section 405.3 of the 2010 ADAAG standards. This barrier to access exposes Plaintiff to increased danger of tipping over as a cross-slope in excess of 1:48 is dangerous, and this excessive cross-slope is made even more dangerous given the fact it is on a sloped surface of a ramp.

- xvii. In front of Quick Shop, the accessible ramp side flares have a slope in excess of 1:10 in violation of Section 406.3 of the 2010 ADAAG standards. This barrier to access would make it dangerous and difficult for Plaintiff to access the units of the Property because steep slopes on ramp side flares could cause the wheelchair to tip over and injure Plaintiff.
- xviii. Inside Quick Shop, the interior has walking surfaces lacking a 36 (thirty-six) inch clear width, due to a policy of maximizing the number of items of sale in the store by placing items in the accessible route, in violation of Section 403.5.1 of the 2010 ADAAG standards. This barrier to access would make it difficult for Plaintiff to properly utilize public features at the Property because the width of Plaintiff's wheelchair would prevent passage through areas with a width less than 36 inches.
- xix. In front of Quick Shop, due to the presence of a column, the landing at the top of the curb accessible ramp did not have 36 (thirty-six) inch clear space in violation of Section 406.4 of the 2010 ADAAG standards. This barrier to access would make it difficult and dangerous for Plaintiff to access the Property.
- xx. Defendant fails to adhere to a policy, practice and procedure to ensure that all facilities are readily accessible to and usable by disabled individuals.

QUICK SHOP RESTROOMS

xxi. The restroom lacks signage in compliance with Sections 216.8 and 703 of the 2010 ADAAG standards. This barrier to access would make it difficult for Plaintiff and/or any disabled individual to locate accessible restroom facilities.

- xxii. The door hardware providing access to the restrooms requires tight grasping and twisting of the wrist in violation of Section 404.2.7 of the 2010 ADAAG standards. This barrier to access would make it difficult for Plaintiff and/or any disabled individual to utilize the restroom facilities.
- xxiii. Due to the placement of the toilet paper dispenser and the location of the sink, the restroom has walking surfaces lacking a 36 (thirty-six) inch clear width in violation of Section 403.5.1 of the 2010 ADAAG standards. This violation would make it difficult for Plaintiff and/or any disabled individual to properly utilize the restroom facilities at the Property.
- xxiv. Restrooms have a pedestal sink with inadequate knee and toe clearance in violation of Section 306 of the 2010 ADAAG standards. This barrier to access would make it difficult for Plaintiff and/or any disabled individual to utilize the restroom sink as Plaintiff is seated in a wheelchair and, when seated, Plaintiff's feet and legs protrude out in front. In order to properly utilize a sink, Plaintiff's legs must be able to be underneath the surface of the sink, but due to the improper configuration of the sink, there is no room underneath for Plaintiff's legs and feet.
- xxv. The controls on the faucets require pinching and turning of the wrists in violation of Section 309.4 of the 2010 ADAAG standards. This barrier to access would make it difficult for Plaintiff and/or any disabled individual to utilize the restroom facilities.
- xxvi. The grab bars/handrails adjacent to the commode are missing and violate Section 604.5 of the 2010 ADAAG standards. This barrier to access would

make it difficult for Plaintiff and/or any disabled individual to safely transfer from the wheelchair to the toilet and back to the wheelchair.

- xxvii. As there is no accessible route to the toilet, the Property lacks an accessible route connecting the exterior of the Property to all accessible elements and features inside the Property in violation of Section 206.2.4 of the 2010 ADAAG standards. This barrier to access would make it difficult for Plaintiff to access public features of the Property due to the lack of a safe accessible route leading from the exterior to interior spaces inside the Property.
- 37. The violations enumerated above may not be a complete list of the barriers, conditions or violations encountered by Plaintiff and/or which exist at the Property.
- 38. Plaintiff requires an inspection of the Property in order to determine all of the discriminatory conditions present at the Property in violation of the ADA.
- 39. The removal of the physical barriers, dangerous conditions and ADA violations alleged herein is readily achievable and can be accomplished and carried out without significant difficulty or expense. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv); 42 U.S.C. § 12181(9); 28 C.F.R. § 36.304.
- 40. All of the violations alleged herein are readily achievable to modify to the Property into compliance with the ADA.
- 41. Upon information and good faith belief, the removal of the physical barriers and dangerous conditions present at the Property is readily achievable because the nature and cost of the modifications are relatively low.
- 42. Upon information and good faith belief, the removal of the physical barriers and dangerous conditions present at the Property is readily achievable because Defendants, BIEU NGUYEN and ANAYA DEEP INC., have the financial resources to make the necessary

modifications. According to the Property Appraiser, the Appraised value of the Property is \$1,053,156.00.

- 43. The removal of the physical barriers and dangerous conditions present at the Property is also readily achievable because Defendants have available to it a \$5,000.00 tax credit and up to a \$15,000.00 tax deduction from the IRS for spending money on accessibility modifications.
 - 44. Upon information and good faith belief, the Property has been altered since 2010.
- 45. In instances where the 2010 ADAAG standards do not apply, the 1991 ADAAG standards apply, and all of the alleged violations set forth herein can be modified to comply with the 1991 ADAAG standards.
- 46. Plaintiff is without adequate remedy at law, is suffering irreparable harm, and reasonably anticipates that he will continue to suffer irreparable harm unless and until Defendants, BIEU NGUYEN and ANAYA DEEP INC., are required to remove the physical barriers, dangerous conditions and ADA violations that exist at the Property, including those alleged herein.
 - 47. Plaintiff's requested relief serves the public interest.
- 48. The benefit to Plaintiff and the public of the relief outweighs any resulting detriment to Defendants, BIEU NGUYEN and ANAYA DEEP INC.
- 49. Plaintiff's counsel is entitled to recover its reasonable attorney's fees and costs of litigation from Defendants, BIEU NGUYEN and ANAYA DEEP INC., pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 12188 and 12205.
- 50. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12188(a), this Court is provided authority to grant injunctive relief to Plaintiff, including the issuance of an Order directing Defendants, BIEU

NGUYEN and ANAYA DEEP INC., to modify the Property to the extent required by the ADA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays as follows:

(a) That the Court find Defendants, BIEU NGUYEN and ANAYA DEEP INC., in

violation of the ADA and ADAAG;

That the Court issue a permanent injunction enjoining Defendants, BIEU (b)

NGUYEN and ANAYA DEEP INC., from continuing their discriminatory

practices;

(c) That the Court issue an Order requiring Defendants, BIEU NGUYEN and

ANAYA DEEP INC., to (i) remove the physical barriers to access and (ii) alter

the Property to make it readily accessible to and useable by individuals with

disabilities to the extent required by the ADA;

(d) That the Court award Plaintiff his reasonable attorneys' fees, litigation expenses

and costs; and

(e) That the Court grant such further relief as deemed just and equitable in light of the

circumstances.

Dated: September 25, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Douglas S. Schapiro

Douglas S. Schapiro, Esq.

Southern District of Texas ID No. 3182479

The Schapiro Law Group, P.L.

7301-A W. Palmetto Park Rd., #100A

Boca Raton, FL 33433

Tel: (561) 807-7388

Email: schapiro@schapirolawgroup.com

17